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# BAY VIEW

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ABAG A REGULAR PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

# Land Use Regs Removed

## EMP Moves Closer To Vote

A 45-member task force working to solve environmental pollution problems in the Bay Area has finished the job handed to it by local governments.

On April 20, the county supervisors and city council members who make up ABAG's Executive Board will take over for the Environmental Management Task Force. The refinements they make to an environmental management plan that's been in the works two years will be voted on by ABAG's 95 member governments on June 10.

"At times I feared our discussions would actually subtract from the sum total of human knowledge on the subject," quipped San Mateo Supervisor Fred Lyon, who represented the county on the taskforce and is one of its representatives on the Executive Board.

"Many changes have been made in the plan, which will now meet the demands of local government, most business interests, and the general public," Lyon added. "What we can't lose sight of is that the plan's major purpose is to protect public health, not just meet a variety of State and Federal standards and laws.

"The standards were set after considerable testimony was presented to Congress. The air quality oxidant standard has been reviewed twice by the National Academy of Science since adoption. Each time they've concurred that the level set is necessary to protect health."

Lyon chaired the final hours of the group's last meeting, at least the last one until higher policy bodies decide what the continuing planning process will consist of and who will guide it. Family illness forced task force chairman Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco to leave before the March 16 meeting concluded.

"During my years of public service, this is certainly one of the most impressive groups I've worked with to ensure public participation," Supervisor Feinstein said. "There's been a good diversity of viewpoints represented and I think the plan is an excellent one, especially given the tough job we undertook.

"At our General Assembly in February, there seemed to be consensus that a plan was needed although there were many ideas for changing the original draft," she concluded. "I think we've incorporated those that were the most strongly held by the majority interests and we've dropped the controversial land use measures."

Water quality, water supply, air quality and solid waste management are the four elements of the draft plan. A quick summary of the key decisions made by the task force, which must be voted on by member governments and approved at the State and Federal levels, follows.

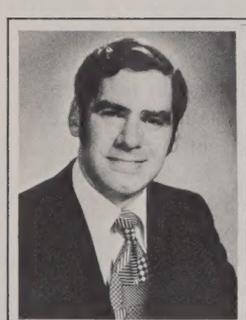
### WATER QUALITY

Set up a Bay-Delta water research advisory council, staffed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Work to re-establish recreational and commercial shellfish harvesting in the Bay, giving major responsibilities to State agencies.

(Continued on page 2

## Diridon, Wilson Elected; Grote, Others Honored



*Rod Diridon*

*Susanne Wilson*

Santa Clara Board of Supervisors' Chairman Rod Diridon and San Jose Vice Mayor Susanne B. Wilson assumed their new roles as ABAG's president and vice president at the Association's February 8 General Assembly. They will each serve two-year terms.

After two years as vice-president, Diridon succeeds Pleasant Hill Councilmember Lenard E. Grote. Grote received a standing ovation from the delegates to the General Assembly after making his farewell remarks as president.

Diridon serves on most of ABAG's key policy committees. He is also an ex officio member of the Joint Policy Committee of ABAG and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The two regional agencies are cooperating in a $900,000 study of transportation issues in the Santa Clara Valley. Aside from transportation, Diridon is keenly interested in property tax reform, government simplification and openness, special district consolidation and, naturally, intergovernmental cooperation. Wilson has chaired ABAG's Regional Planning Committee for three years, guiding it through the first major update of the *Comprehensive Regional Plan 1970-1990*. She also co-chaired the agency's Industrial Siting Task Force.

Outgoing President Grote and five other local elected officials were honored at the General Assembly luncheon. Grote was recognized for his exceptional service to ABAG during his two years as the agency's president.

Councilmember Don Dillon of Fremont and Mayor Jack D. Maltester of San Leandro — both past ABAG presidents — were commended for their outstanding service to the Bay Area. Both retired recently from elected office.

Also recently retired from public office are Newark Mayor James E. Balentine, El Cerrito Mayor Richard H. Bartke, and Councilmember William R. "Bill" Lucius of Healdsburg. These three officials were honored for their distinguished service on ABAG's Executive Board and policy committees.

(continued from page 1)

Provide for expanded and new facilities for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment. Includes adoption of a 20-year 201 sewage facility project list that does *not* reflect the compact development control measures which were in the original air quality plan element.

Implement stormwater runoff controls.

Monitor value of current oil and chemical spills clean-up programs in region.

## WATER SUPPLY

Establish an independent water management coordinating committee to meet informally and discuss future of cooperative water supply management.

Encourage water savings programs plus safe and cost-effective water reclamation programs.

## AIR QUALITY

Remove land use planning as a policy from the element, asking instead that cities and counties review that section further and report back at the October 1979 ABAG General Assembly.

Use available control technology on existing hydrocarbon sources.

Continue review of new and/or modified sources using offset policy and technological controls defined as lowest achievable emission rate (LAER) in Clean Air Act.

Reduce vehicle emissions 50% below 1977 levels.

Implement inspection/maintenance for vehicles statewide.

Increase bridge tolls only as needed to improve public transit if State and Federal funding is insufficient or unobtainable.

Delete the proposed parking tax, but study further auto control zones in central business districts.

Defer to the General Assembly a decision on the final pollution controls necessary to maintain the Federal oxidant standard to the year 2000. Staff must rank for effectiveness the following: controlling or prohibiting small gas engines, controlling off-highway mobile sources, increased gas tax, smog charges (based on mileage driven), even further additions to public transit services, parking strategies, efficiencies in the movement of goods by truck, and greater use of small buses, vans, jitneys.

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Adopt a policy to reduce the amount of wastes going to Bay Area landfills by 30% by 1982.

Carry out and update the county plans as the basis of the regional solid waste management plan.

Encourage markets for secondary materials.

Determine whether there is a need for new landfill disposal sites.

Plan adequately for hazardous waste disposal.

# It's In The Bag!

## Cites, Counties Get Solid Waste Funds

ABAG is helping the State Solid Waste Management Board conduct the Bay Area Solid Waste Management Project (BASWMP) in this region.

What is BASWMP? Briefly, it will determine the relative environmental, economic and social impacts of alternative systems for managing the Bay Area's solid wastes. It is also concerned with energy recovery and recycling projects, hazardous waste disposal, and public information.

ABAG and the State Board have produced a report called *Environmentally Dangerous Waste in the San Francisco Bay Area – Land Disposal and Its Alternatives*. A second report is being prepared to describe institutional factors affecting the use of energy recovery projects here. Third, a public information program on resource recovery, including a manual for source separation programs, is getting started.

Several local programs have already been funded by BASWMP.

EL CERRITO has received approximately $40,000 from the State Board toward the cost of its waste recycling project. Services include curbside collection of glass, mixed metals, and newspapers. If you can haul your throwaways to a collection center, El Cerrito boasts one of those, too.

SANTA ROSA has also received approximately $40,000 from the Board toward the cost of providing curbside collection of mixed cans, bottles, and newsprint. According to project director Stuart Kotte, the Redwood Empire Disposal Corporation has purchased three special vans that will pick up recyclables from single-family homes. Initially, residents will ave to separate their waste into boxes, but Kotte expects containers to be available by April 1.

A CITY OF ALAMEDA project would involve 1,200 tons per day of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) combustion to generate steam and electricity. The project will produce enough energy to save the city more than $1 million annually. The State's contribution to this project is $110,000, plus approximately $50,000 from local government.

The CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO has proposed a better use for wastes currently being landfilled in Mountain View. A resource recovery plant is proposed that would process about 1,200 tons per day of RDF. State funds in the amount of $150,000 will be made available.

MARIN, NAPA, SOLANO and MENDOCINO counties would be involved in a proposed analysis of resource recovery in a lightly populated dispersed region. The project would examine the conversion of municipal and wood wastes into energy. Due to the distance between the population centers in these areas, the benefits of both centralized and dispersed energy conversion facilities will also be analyzed. Marin County has volunteered to act as lead agency.

Three Bay Area projects have been funded to study the feasibility of providing steam for power generation through refuse combustion.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ($45,000) is investigating refuse-derived fuel as a way to generate steam at the U.S. Steel plant in Pittsburg. The steam generated by burning almost 700 tons of solid waste a day would be used by U.S. Steel and possibly by PG&E.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY ($40,000) is studying four or more ways to convert solid waste into energy. Cities participating are Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale plus the County. About 1,500 tons of refuse a day would be available for conversion. Possible markets for the energy? Perhaps Palo Alto, several local wastewater treatment plants, Stanford University, and the Port of Redwood City.

BERKELEY ($49,000) will develop preliminary designs for a processing facility to reduce the amount of solid waste deposited in the city's landfill.

For additional information about BASWMP programs, contact Bob Spitzka at the State Solid Waste Management Board (916) 322-6135 or Peter Chiu at ABAG, ext. 257.

# $188 Million ABAG Board Blesses Local A-95 Requests

At its January and February meetings, ABAG's Executive Board approved 167 proposals for $188,516,701 in Federal funds. The March meeting had not been held at press time.

In January, the Board reviewed 3 multi-county projects, one of which was the ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY application. ABAG had endorsed a memorandum of agreement to coordinate planning activities with that HSA in December. The application to HEW will help fund health planning for the two counties.

In its January review of the TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE COMPOSITE MEDICAL FACILITY, the Board adopted a review prepared jointly by ABAG and the North Bay Health Systems Agency. The report stresses the need to coordinate new medical facilities such as the one proposed for Travis with other facilities in Solano County, reducing medical — and public — costs by sharing certain facilities and expensive equipment.

HUD Community Development Block Grants totalling $25,023,000 from seven counties and cities were approved in January and February. Applications from CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, SAN MATEO COUNTY, and the cities of ALAMEDA, FREMONT, HAYWARD, OAKLAND, and CONCORD emphasized housing conservation and rehabilitation plus community development activities such as senior and neighborhood centers, park development, and street and drainage improvements.

OAKLAND is complementing its CDBG grant with another HUD application for Urban Development Action Program (UDAP) funds, part of the new Housing and Community Development Act of 1977. UDAP monies are available to designated financially distressed cities of more than 50,000 population. The Board strongly recommended approval of this $53,565,000 grant aimed at revitalizing downtown Oakland by completing the Convention Center and the City Center Hotel facilities.

The CITY OF NAPA's Deferred Down Payment Loan Project is also seeking approval from HUD under the Innovative Grants Program.

The Executive Board voted approval for "701" pre-applications from eight cities (PLEASANTON, PINOLE, SAN PABLO, CALISTOGA, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, DIXON, VACAVILLE, and HEALDSBURG). It also approved an INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT proposal to the Environmental Education Program of HEW to brief local elected officials on energy and environmental issues.

# Governor Ponders Lead Agency Choice

Directors of the three agencies responsible for clean air planning in this region have agreed that ABAG should continue to be the lead agency in that effort.

The recommendation has been forwarded to the Governor on behalf of ABAG, the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Lead agency designation is required under the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 in all regions that are not meeting Federal air quality standards.

According to EPA, the nine Bay Area counties violate air pollution control standards for photochemical oxidants, particulates, and carbon monoxide.

EPA noted recently that when tougher air quality standards due on nitrogen dioxide are adopted, the Bay Area will fail to meet those as well.

Oxidants, which help create smog, can seriously irritate the eyes, mucous membranes and respiratory system. Particulates can cause respiratory illnesses and breathing problems. Carbon monoxide can cause stress to the heart and blood vessels. Nitrogen dioxide, also a component of smog, can cause bronchitis and pneumonia.

# Now That Storms Are Back...

Local and national aspects of stormwater runoff will be reviewed at an April 12 conference co-sponsored by ABAG, San Francisco Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and San Francisco Bay Estuarine Association.

Nearly a score of speakers, including several from the east coast, will present papers on local efforts, national perspectives, and future needs and regulatory policies. Although aimed at a technical audience, the general public may attend. There is no registration fee.

The conference begins at 9 a.m. at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, and will end at 5 p.m. For further information, contact Dr. Yoram Litwin at ABAG, ext. 255.

# In Print

Copies of the draft Environmental Management Plan and its supporting documents are available at the following costs:

| | |
|---|---|
| 80-page summary of the Draft Environmental Management Plan | $ 2.00 |
| 135-page Plan Recommendation Tables | $ 3.00 |
| 550-page Draft Environmental Management Plan (Volume I) | $10.00 |
| Draft Environmental Impact Report and Volume II (Index of Agency Responsibilities) | $ 3.50 |
| 75-page Draft Environmental Impact Report only | $ 2.00 |
| Individual county surface runoff plans | $ 1.50 |
| Technical Memos (each) | $ 1.00 |
| Bibliography | Free |

The draft plan and several of the supporting documents can be reviewed without charge in the ABAG library or at city halls, county administration buildings, and numerous public libraries.

In April, a 10-page report summarizing the changes recommended by the Environmental Management Task Force will be available prior to debate by the Executive Board on April 20.

## ECONOMICS

*Economic Practices Manual: A Handbook for Preparing an Economic Impact Assessment* is available to all cities and counties from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The manual is the result of a cooperative effort by OPR and ABAG following requests from local officials faced with more and more complicated environmental review procedures.

"It will provide anyone (with or without prior training in economics) with simple, step-by-step procedures to calculate the long- and short-term public costs of anything from a new policeman to a proposed housing development," according to OPR Director Bill Press. Write OPR at 1400 Tenth St., Sacramento, 95814 or call (916) 322-3784.

## TREES

A tree grows in...Brisbane? Right. And probaby in every other city of our region.

Urban trees provide many benefits, but they also present problems. Air purification, windbreaks, noise and glare reduction, shade, erosion and stormwater runoff control, and wildlife habitats are some of the good things.

On the debit side are rising costs associated with conservation and planting programs, according to 33 of the 46 cities responding to an ABAG survey. Specific problems cited included diseases and insects, drought, damage due to vandalism or air pollution, and tree root damage to pavements, streets and sewers.

For an interesting discussion of what Bay Area communities are doing, and possibly need to do, ask for *Urban Tree Programs in the San Francisco Bay Region*. The survey was conducted by ABAG as part of an urban forestry program funded by the U.S. Forest Service and State Department of Forestry. The survey was done to see what kinds of technical information and other assistance are most needed.

Linda Bledsoe at ext. 178 is the contact at ABAG.

# Whose Fault?
## ABAG Tackles Liability Issue

When—not if—the next big earthquake hits the Bay Area, thousands may be killed or injured and property damage could be in the billions.

An increasingly thorny question in many states is: What's the extent of liability for cities and counties for reducing, or failing to reduce, known earthquake hazards. Elected officials and earthquake experts are beginning to fear that current liability law and recent court decisions may actually be discouraging local governments from identifying and reducing earthquake hazards.

Programs to reduce such hazards would save many lives and dollars over the long-term. Yet such programs are rare even in fault-riddled California.

ABAG, through a $125,200 grant from the National Science Foundation, has undertaken a project to clarify current local government liability, analyze current and potential impact of tort liability law on the reduction of earthquake hazards, and suggest ways that laws and administrative practices could be changed.

"The project stems from our 1976 General Assembly that focused on earthquakes," according to ABAG President Rod Diridon.

A distinguished review committee, which met for the first time on March 1, has been assembled to guide the work of ABAG staff. They are: Arvo Van Alstyne, Vice President-Executive Assistant, University of Utah, and professor in the College of Law; Robert Brown, Jr., U.S. Geological Survey; Dr. Winfred Carter, Utah Seismic Safety Advisory Council; Henry J. Degenkolb of H. J. Degenkolb Assoc., a structural engineering firm specializing in seismic safety; Louise Giersch, Vice-Chairman of the Calif. Seismic Safety Commission; John G. Larson, Los Angeles County Counsel; James E. McCarthy, president, American Public Works Association and Oakland public works director; Thomas K. McGuire, Calif. State deputy attorney general; Prof. Arnold Meltsner, Graduate School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley; and Will H. Perry, Jr., director, Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services and member, Calif. State Seismic Safety Commission.

For more information, contact project director Terry Margerum at ABAG, ext. 181.

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1:30 p.m.**
Regional Planning Committee

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 3:00 p.m.**
Work Program and Coordination Committee

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2:00 p.m.**
ABAG/MTC Joint Policy Committee
(in Santa Clara County)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2:00 p.m.**
Executive Board

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2:00 p.m.**
Regional Planning Committee

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 3:00 p.m.**
Work Program and Coordination Committee

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2:00 p.m.**
ABAG/MTC Joint Policy Committee
(in Santa Clara County)

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 3:30 p.m.**
Legislation and Governmental Organization Committee

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 p.m.**
Executive Board

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 9:30 a.m.**
General Assembly
(in San Jose)

Meeting dates are subject to change.
Please confirm meeting times by phone.


# BAY VIEW

**Bay View is published periodically by the Association of Bay Area Governments, the area-wide comprehensive planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area. ABAG was established in 1961 to meet regional problems through the cooperative action of its member cities and counties. Eighty-seven of 93 cities and 8 of 9 counties in the Bay Area are members.**

**Preparation of Bay View is financed in part through grants from EPA, HUD, and other Federal agencies.**

**For further information on programs mentioned in Bay View, call (415) 841-9730.**

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